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Letter dated 22 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 20 July 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 9 to 16 July 2000 they carried out 172 sorties, 66 of them from Saudi Arabia, 60 from Kuwait and 46 from Turkey. He refers to his letter dated 6 May 2000 addressed to you, to which he has yet to receive your response, and he urges you to meet your responsibility under Article 99 of the Charter by alerting the Security Council to take the necessary steps to end this constant aggression against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-59672 (E) 090800 090800

Annex to the letter dated 22 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 172 sorties in the period from 9 to 16 July 2000, 66 of them from Saudi Arabia, 60 from Kuwait and 46 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 46 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1030 hours on 9 July 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Dokan, Zakho, Qal'at Dizah, Ayn Zalah and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1045 hours on 10 July 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Mosul, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah, Baibo, Zakho and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1030 hours on 12 July 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Mosul, Aqrah, Ayn Zalah, Baibo, Zakho and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 126 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 2055 hours on 9 July 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 missions, four of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Salman, Artawi, Qurnah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2220 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 2300 hours on 10 July 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 10 of

them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Qurnah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2415 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 2135 hours on 11 July 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 36 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Amarah, Kut, Diwaniyah, Nu'maniyah, Qurnah, Lasaf, Najaf, Jalibah, Artawi, Qal'at Sukkar, Hayy, Taqtaqanah and Ashbajah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0210 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1700 hours on 12 July 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 40 missions, 26 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Shinafiyah, Jalibah, Lasaf, Basrah, Hayy, Ashbajah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1815 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 2210 hours on 13 July 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 40 missions, 26 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Diwaniyah, Jalibah, Najaf, Hayy, Salman and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2355 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1034 hours on 16 July 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Rifa'i, Jalibah, Qal'at Sukkar, Shinafiyah, Hayy, Artawi, Rumaythah, Taqtaqanah, Ashbajah, Basrah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1135 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that

has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these wanton acts of aggression, urges you to intervene with the governments of the countries in question with a view to ending their aggression and ensuring respect for the norms of international law and for the sovereignty of Iraq.

I should like in this connection to refer to my letter of 6 May 2000 in which we requested you, in the light of your responsibilities, to adopt an explicit position with respect to this ongoing armed aggression against the sovereignty of an independent State and a Member of the United Nations and to call for an end to this illegal and unlawful action, a letter to which we have yet to receive your response.

In requesting you to declare this position, we are hopeful that you will meet your responsibility under Article 99 of the Charter by alerting the Security Council so that it may take the necessary steps to eliminate the no-flight zones imposed on Iraq.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq